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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/032,551	02/26/98	WERVE	T 97RSS444/708

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, S	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2664
DATE MAILED:

07/02/01

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SN

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/032,551	Applicant(s) Werve et al.	Examiner Steven Nguyen	Art Unit 2664	
	<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>				
Period for Reply					
<p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 					
Status					
<p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Apr 16, 2001</u></p>					
<p>2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p>					
<p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> 1835 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.</p>					
Disposition of Claims					
<p>4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-55</u> is/are pending in the application.</p>					
<p>4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p>					
<p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p>					
<p>6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-55</u> is/are rejected.</p>					
<p>7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p>					
<p>8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>					
Application Papers					
<p>9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p>					
<p>10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.</p>					
<p>11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved.</p>					
<p>12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119					
<p>13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).</p>					
<p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p>					
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p>					
<p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.</p>					
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>					
<p>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>					
<p>14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).</p>					
Attachment(s)					
<p>15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p>					
<p>16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p>					
<p>17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____</p>					
<p>18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____</p>					
<p>19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p>					
<p>20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>					

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 4/16/2001 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/032551 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows. This application is now treated as an RCE.

Response to Amendment

2. The Declaration filed on 4/16/2001 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Dilip (USP 6094673) reference. The applicant reduces to practice of the present invention on 11/18/1997.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to

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the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-5, 8, 18-24, 27, 37-42 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dekelbaum et al (USP 5838682) in view of Bauer (USP 6188673) and Sonesh (USP 6046762).

As claims 1-3, 8, 18-22, 27 and 37-39, Dekelbaum discloses a method for establishing an audio call path between an Internet user accessing a web site and an agent of the web site comprises the steps of providing the web site with a plurality of audio access icons and a plurality of agent groups; associating an agent group of the plurality of agent groups with a subject matter of each audio-access icon of the web site (Fig 1B, 6, Col 5, line 25 to col 7, line 52, Dekelbaum et al disclose a web site which includes a plurality of web pages with the embedded phone number or data address of each of plurality of group of agents so that when the user views the web page information and decides to speak to an agent the user just click on the hot spot such as hypertext link, image, button or icon wherein the phone number or data address is embedded in it to establish a call path between the user and an agent group over a local area network). However, Dekelbaum does not show the steps of detecting an activation of an audio access icon of plurality of icons; determining an overall type of question associated with each audio icon from information content of the web page of activated icon; selecting an agent with a best relative ability to answer

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the determined type of question based upon a skill list for the agent group and establishing a voice path using IP telephony between the Internet voice plug-ins of user and an agent of the associated agent group based upon activation of an audio-access icon by the user. In the same field of endeavor, Bauer discloses the steps of detecting an activation of an audio access icon of plurality of icons (Fig 2, Ref 216 and Fig 1, Ref 103 is a web server has a plurality of web pages 121 and 122, each has an audio access icon 115); determining an overall type of question associated with each audio icon from information content of the web page of activated icon (Fig 2, Ref 220, col. 2, lines 13-15); selecting an agent with a best relative ability to answer the determined type of question based upon a skill list for the agent group (Fig 2, Ref 242, selecting a agent and estimates waiting time); See Col 3, lines 50 to col 4, lines 50, and col 5, lines 7-35) and Sonesh discloses a well-known method for establishing a voice path using IP telephony between the Internet voice plug-ins of user and an agent of the associated agent group based upon activation of an audio-access icon by the user (Col 6, lines 5-8 and Fig 6, Ref 660, click on Icon for establishing IP telephony by using a plug in module)

Since, Dekelbaum suggests the use of autodialer which is plug in into the web browser and a method of establishing an IP telephony between two computers and the routing path between the caller and a skill agent by using an ACD are well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to apply teaching of Sonesh and Bauer such as determining routing path between the client and a skill agent in order to establish a IP telephony via Internet into Dekelbaum's communication system.

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The motivation would have been to avoid a long distance charge when the customer requests some information about the product.

As claims 4 and 23, it is a designer choice for correlating a training level of an agent group of the plurality of agent groups with an information content of an audio-access icon of the at least some web pages.

As claims 5 and 24, Dekelbaum et al disclose an ACD which places the user in a call queue of the associated group until a next available agent becomes available (Fig 1B, 106).

As claims 40-41, it would have been explicit to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a look up table in a memory of the web site controller which relates to the information content of each web page of the at least some web pages with an audio access icon disposed on the web page and a call distribution look up table which correlates to the level of an agent group of the plurality of agent groups with information content of an audio access icon of the at least some web pages in order to display the correct information web page and establish a correct call path when the user click on the web page.

As claim 42, the claim 42 is similar to claim 5. Therefore, it is rejected under similar rationale.

As claim 45, the claim 45 is similar to claim 8. Therefore, it is rejected under similar rationale.

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5. Claims 6-7, 25-26 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dekelbaum, Sonesh and Bauer as applied to claim 1, 20 and 37 above, and further in view of Gerber (USP 5657383).

As claims 6-7 and 25-26, Dekelbaum discloses an ACD. However, Dekelbaum fails to disclose a step of measuring a time period that the user has been in the call queue and comparing the measured time with a threshold value and overflowing the user to a queue of another agent group when the measured time exceeds the threshold (Fig 6A-6C discloses a call which places in the queue of team A for period of time and using this time to comparing with a threshold in order to move the user to another team such as Team B).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to apply the method for identifying the waiting period of a user and comparing it with a threshold in order to transfer the user to another group of an agent as taught by Gerber et al into the communication system of Dekelbaum et al. The suggestion/motivation would have been to avoid an overflow of a queue of a level of a group of agents.

As claims 43-44, the claims 43-44 are similar to claims 6-7. Therefore, they are rejected under similar rationale.

6. Claims 9-17, 28-36 and 46-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dekelbaum, Sonesh and Bauer as applied to claims 1, 20 and 37 above, and further in view of Bateman et al (USP 5884032).

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As claims 9-10 and 28-29, Dekelbaum et al fail to disclose a step of transferring an Internet address of the selected agent to the user and an Internet address of the user to the selected agent. However, in the same field of endeavor, Bateman et al disclose a method for establishing a call path by using the Internet address of the user and agent by transferring an Internet address of the selected agent to the user and an Internet address of the user to the selected agent (Col 6, lines 66 to col 8, lines 13, the user transfer its Internet address to an agent by embedded its Internet address in URL form when it clicks on the audio access icon and agent uses this Internet address to transfer its Internet address to the user in order to setup a voice channel; Furthermore, establishing a voice channel on the Internet the caller and calle must know its recipient Internet address to transfer a voice data to each other).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that the user and agent must know the Internet address each other in order to transfer a voice data. The suggestion/motivation would have been to establishing a voice channel over Internet.

As claims 11-12 and 30-31, Dekelbaum et al disclose a web site controller which include in the Internet server (Fig 1B, 102, retrieve information of user to display at terminate of agent) to decode the information which includes in the requested user. The controller will decode the information in it. However, Dekelbaum et al fail to disclose a web site controller used to decode the information and recover the user Internet address. In the same field of endeavor, Bateman et al disclose when the user click on an audio access icon the user IP is filled automatically in the

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request from in a hidden field in the request form and transmit it to the web server. The web site controller decodes the user IP address and transfers this IP address to the agent in order establishing a voice channel (Col 7, lines 2-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that a web site must include a web site controller in order to decode and recover the user Internet address and transfer it to the agent. The suggestion/motivation would have been to establishing a voice channel over Internet.

As claims 13-17 and 32-36, it would have been explicit to one of ordinary skill in the art to create an entry information web page such as credit card to allow the customer to enter data, transfer a collected information and identifier agent to a database of the web site and the group of agents and retrieve the user record from database and display this record at the terminal of agent.

As claims 46-47, the claims 46-47 are similar to claims 9-10. Therefore, they are rejected under similar rationale.

As claims 48-49, the claims 48-49 are similar to claims 11-12. Therefore, they are rejected under similar rationale.

As claims 50-51 and 53-55, the claims 50-51 and 53-55 are similar to claims 13-17. Therefore, they are rejected under similar rationale.

As claims 52, it would have been explicit to one of ordinary skill in the art to couple a database in order to store the customer records.

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Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-8848. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin, can be reached on (703) 305-4366.

The fax phone number for this group is (703) 305-3988.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

STEVEN H. D. NGUYEN

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June 28, 2001



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